

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Due to enhanced participation of youth in sports, it is seen that during the last two to three years, India's performance in most of the International Championships/Games has been improving. Still there is scope for further improvement of India's performance in International Sports Events. In the 1998 Asian Games, India won 35 medals including 7 gold medals. In these Games Men's Hockey Team got gold medal after a long gap of 32 years. This performance is certainly better than India's performance in the 1994 Asian Games, when India could win only 23 medals. In 1998 Commonwealth Games, India got 25 medals including 7 gold, which was again better than 1994 Commonwealth Games, when India got 24 medals. In South Asian Federation Games (SAF), India's performance was spectacular as we won 197 medals including 102 gold. In 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, though the performance in terms of medal tally is the same as in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, overall performance in different disciplines has improved. Laurels, brought by Shri Vishwanathan Anand by winning the World Championship in Chess and by Shri P. Gopi Chand by winning the All England Title in Badminton recently, are the results of the devotion of our sports persons.

BCCI's decision on non-regular cricket venues

3939. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Control for Cricket in India has taken a decision not to send its team for playing cricket at non-regular venues like Sharjah, Singapore and Toronto, for three years;

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(b) if so, whether the decision was taken after taking Government into confidence;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would review the decision of the BCCI, keeping in view the contractual obligations of India with CBFS; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (e) The decision not to send Indian Cricket team to play at non-regular venues for 3 years has been taken by the Government considering all aspects and BCCI has been advised accordingly.

Upgrading sports infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh

3940. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the performance of sports persons like Malleswari, V.V.S. Lakshman, etc., Government would grant substantial aid to Andhra Pradesh for upgrading and modernising the sports infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the financial assistance proposed during the current financial year, to upgrade sports complexes, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) 'Sports' is a State subject and it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to upgrade and modernise the sports infrastructure according to their needs. However, Central Government do supplement the efforts of the State Government in